

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 8, 2004, where the Examiner has allowed claims 18 and 35, rejected claims 1-6, 15-16, 19-23 and 33, and objected to claims 7-14, 17, 24-32 and 34. By the present amendment, claims 1-6, 15-16, 19-23 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution, and claims 7 and 24 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 7-14, 17-18, 24-32 and 34-35 remain in the present application. Allowance of remaining claims, 7-14, 17-18, 24-32 and 34-35 in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Allowable claims

Claims 18 and 35 stand allowed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's statement of allowance regarding claims 18 and 35.

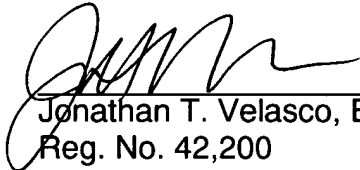
On page 8 of the Office Action in the Allowable Subject Matter section, the Examiner states that claims 7-14, 17, 24-32 and 34 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's statement of allowance regarding claims 7-14, 17, 24-32 and 34, and has redrafted claims 7 and 24 accordingly. More particularly, currently amended independent claims 7 and 24 incorporate the limitations of previous independent claims 1 and 19, respectively, and intervening claims 2-4 and 20-21, respectively. Claims 8-14, and 17 now depend on claim 7 and any previously intervening claims. Claims 25-32 and 34 now depend on claim 24 and any previously intervening claims.

B. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 7-14, 17-18, 24-32 and 34-35 remaining in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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